

1. A method for coordinating imaging operations with user profile migration to perform migration in place on a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a migration content storage partition in the computer system to hold migration content, by using a partition manipulation tool to manipulate at

least one partition in a partitionable storage medium of the computer system;

saving migration content into the provided migration content storage partition by using a migration tool, the saved migration content including at least user settings for the computer system;

deploying an image into at least one other partition of the computer system's partitionable storage by using an imaging tool, thereby forming a newly imaged partition which is not the migration content storage partition; and

restoring migration content from the migration content storage partition into the newly imaged partition by using the migration tool.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of deleting at least one file from the partitionable storage medium of the computer system to make additional room for migration content.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises rebooting the computer system, and the reboot causes execution of commands that include an invocation of the imaging tool during the deploying step.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the rebooting step reboots the computer system from a bootable removable storage medium.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the rebooting step reboots the computer system using a network boot image which is dynamically downloaded for that boot over a network to the computer system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises rebooting the computer system, and the reboot causes execution of commands that include an invocation of the migration tool during the migration content restoring step.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the invocation of the migration tool results from an entry in an operating system registry.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a migration content storage partition comprises determining whether the computer system's partitionable storage has an extended partition.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of providing a migration content storage partition comprises creating an extended partition to hold migration content after the determining step determined that the computer system's partitionable storage lacked an extended partition.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a migration content storage partition comprises shrinking a partition on the computer system's partitionable storage to provide storage space for use in the migration content storage partition.

5 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of deleting the migration content storage partition after restoring migration content from the migration content storage partition into the newly imaged partition.

10 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of deploying an image deploys an image of an operating system which was not installed on the computer system at a point in time one minute immediately before the deploying step began.

15 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of deploying an image deploys an image of an operating system upgrade which upgrades an operating system that was already installed on the computer system before the deploying step.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of deploying an image deploys a rollback image which rolls the image receiving partition back to an earlier state.

20 15. A computer system configured in a state which is an intermediate state in a method for coordinating imaging operations with user profile migration to perform migration in place on the computer system, the computer system comprising:

a newly imaged partition in a partitionable storage medium of the computer system, the newly imaged partition holding an image deployed by an imaging tool, the content of the newly imaged partition lacking at least some desired user profile information; and

5           a migration content storage partition in the partitionable storage medium, the migration content storage partition containing desired user profile information saved by a migration tool.

16.   The system of claim 15, wherein the migration content storage partition  
10 further contains the migration tool.

17.   The system of claim 15, wherein the migration content storage partition is an extended partition.

18.   The system of claim 15, wherein the newly imaged partition contains a file  
15 which includes a command to invoke the migration tool to restore desired user profile information from the migration content storage partition to the newly image partition.

19.   A collection of one or more computer-readable storage media configured  
20 to perform a method for coordinating imaging operations with user profile migration on a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a migration content storage partition in the computer system to hold migration content, by using a partition manipulation tool to resize at least one partition in a partitionable storage medium of the computer system;

saving migration content into the provided migration content storage partition by using a migration tool, the saved migration content including at least user settings for the computer system;

deploying an image into at least one other partition of the computer system's partitionable storage by using an imaging tool, thereby forming a newly imaged partition which is not the migration content storage partition; and

restoring migration content from the migration content storage partition into the newly imaged partition by using the migration tool.

20. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the step of deleting at least one file from the partitionable storage medium of the computer system to make additional room for migration content.

21. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the method comprises rebooting the computer system, and the reboot causes execution of commands that include an invocation of the imaging tool during the deploying step.

22. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the configured media comprise a bootable removable storage medium.

23. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the method comprises rebooting the computer system, and the reboot causes execution of commands that include an invocation of the migration tool during the migration content restoring step.

5 24. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the method comprises determining whether the computer system's partitionable storage has an extended partition.

10 25. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the method comprises creating an extended partition in the computer system's partitionable storage.

15 26. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the providing step comprises shrinking the partition that will receive the image, in order to provide storage space for use in the migration content storage partition.

27. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the method comprises deleting the migration content storage partition after restoring migration content from the migration content storage partition into the newly imaged partition.

20 28. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the step of deploying an image deploys an image of an operating system which was not installed on the computer system before the deploying step began.

29. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the step of deploying an image  
deploys an image of an operating system upgrade which upgrades an operating system  
that was already installed on the computer system before the deploying step.

5 30. The configured media of claim 19, wherein the step of deploying an image  
deploys a rollback image which rolls the image receiving partition back to an earlier state.